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about the kids. So let me, with this time, go back over what the bill does because I gave you some misinformation and if you want to follow, it's a white sheets that says 24...2814. And this is actual statute, and I probably won't have enough time to go through all of it. But it does have the program that we passed last year. This language is in statute. The process this year wasn't in competition with any other bill. It was a simple process I decided on last session that I was going to come back, introduce a bill to fund this program. It fell to a veto last year because the Governor wanted more study done of this concept. The concept, as I said, was supported by the 3-R Task Force of the State Board of Education, dealing with teacher shortage issues, was also supported by the task force chaired by Senator Ardyce Bohlke, that Senator Wehrbein, Senator Wickersham served on, along with people from across the state, looking at the teacher salary issues. So it's had a review since that time. I believe that's why the Governor, although he'll...he can speak for himself, but why he included at least one year of funding in his budget for this program this year. The Appropriations Committee heard the bill and we, as a committee, included two years so that that program could start this year. On the first page of 2814, it talks about the terms and what the program is. Probably the part you're more interested in starts on page 2815, and it's how it's administered. The State Department of Education administers the program, either directly or by contracting with a public or private entity. To be eligible for the program, the student shall be in the top quarter of his or her high school class and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a four-point scale in an eligible institution. They must agree to complete a teacher education program at an eligible institution and commit to teach in an accredited or approved...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...public or private school in Nebraska upon successful completion of the teacher education program at an eligible institution. They may apply on an annual basis for loans, the amount of not more than \$2,500. Priority loans shall be to eligible students who are majoring in subject shortage areas as defined by the department. Loans awarded to individual